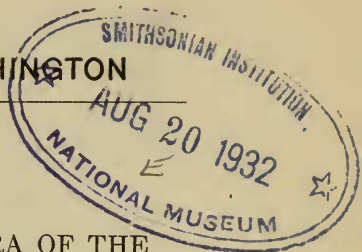


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



ADDITIONS TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF THE
UNITED STATES.

BY OAKES AMES.

In a recent expedition to the Davis Mountains of Texas, E. J. Palmer, collecting for the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, discovered a species of *Spiranthes* which previously had been known only as a native of Mexico. It was originally collected in Chiapas by Galeotti, and inadequately characterized by A. Richard and Galeotti in *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, ser. 3, 3 (1845) 32, under the name *Spiranthes parasitica*. Ever since it was discovered, this has been a rare species. That it should occur in Texas makes reasonable the assumption that intensive exploration there will not only extend the range of a number of Mexican plants, but will perhaps reveal the presence there of several of the extraordinarily rare orchids of Mexico that have been inadequately understood since they were first described.

Spiranthes parasitica A. Rich. & Gal. in *Ann. Sci. Nat.* ser. 3, 3 (1845) 32; in *Comptes Rend. Acad. Sci. Par.* 18 (1844) 513 nomen; Schlechter, in *Beihefte, Bot. Centralbl.* 36, Abt. 2 (1918) 434.

TEXAS, Jeff Davis County, Davis Mountains, Upper Limpia Canyon. E. J. Palmer 30786, June 11, 1926. Moist ground in shade, near a creek. 2200 meters altitude.

In June, 1931, J. A. Moore and J. A. Steyermark, while collecting in the Chisos Mountains of Texas, discovered two plants of a species of *Spiranthes* that was originally described from specimens found in Mexico by E. W. Nelson. This species, *Spiranthes saltensis*, has heretofore been known only from the Mexican states of Durango and Hidalgo.

In a monographic treatment of the *Spiranthinae* published in 1920, Rudolph Schlechter proposed a new genus for the reception of a number of species with which *Spiranthes saltensis* is closely allied. In my opinion, Schlechter's proposals are inexpedient because many of his new genera

depend on a single differentiating character, and are hardly helpful in bringing about a clearer understanding of the species which have been referred to *Spiranthes* in its traditional sense.

Spiranthes saltensis Ames Orch. 2 (1908) 258; 3 (1908) 72, t. 51. Schlechter in Beihefte, Bot. Centralbl. 36, Abt. 2 (1918) 435.

Schiedeella saltensis Schltr. in Beihefte, Bot. Centralbl. 37, Abt. 2 (1920) 381.

MEXICO, State of Durango, near El Salto. *E. W. Nelson*, 4545, July 12, 1898: State of Hidalgo. *C. G. Pringle* 11918, June 27, 1904.

TEXAS, Brewster County, Chisos Mountains, North slope of Emory Peak. *J. A. Moore & J. A. Steyermark* 3214, June 22, 1931. Grassy soil; soil pockets in rim rock. 2250 meters altitude.